THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) 60 employees have been appointed in NAFED in the last three years from September, 1988 to August, 1991 in various cadres.

(b) Among them, one employee belongs to SC category.

Consignment sale of Nigerseeds to USA

6960. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NAFED are selling Nigerseeds to USA on consignment basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of nigerseed sold to USA on consignment basis during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the NAFED for outright export of Nigerseeds to USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NAFED has entered into Selling Agency Agreement with M/s. Universal Cooperative Inc. USA for sale of Nigerseeds through them on consignment basis. Stocks of Nigerseeds are offered at mutually agreed c.i.f. price, based on the prevailent price in USA. The shipment of Nigerseeds are made only against a Letter of Credit and thus payment is realised in advance. The consultation with the NAFED either in forward trade or on spot basis for obtaining maximum sale realisation.

(c)	*Year*	*Qty. In MTs.*	*FOB value (Rs. in lakhs)*
	1988-89	4410	513.64
	1989-90	3395	267.18
	1990-91	6834	927.34

(d) NAFED contacted all important buyers of nigerseed in USA with offers at regular intervals. Personal contacts were also made with important buyers of Nigerseeds in USA with a view to promoting business with them. Business is finalised with interested buyers on receiving response to NAFED's such offers.

Visit of Foreign Minister of Bangladesh

6961. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the bilateral issues that figured in his talks with Indian leaders and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. During the recent visit of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister to India from 26-29, August, 1991, wide ranging discussions were held on various bilateral issues. The Major issues

that came up for discussion were Tin Bigha, sharing of River Waters, Chakma refugees and illegal immigration. It was agreed that it was in the mutual interest of both countries to further strengthen bilateral relations by resolving the outstanding issues and by adopting a positive approach for enhancing economic cooperation in further.

S.T.D. Facility in Calicut Telecome Division

6962. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone Exchanges under the Calicutt Telecommunication Division propose to be provided with S.T.D. facility during 1991-92; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b). Five telephone exchanges were proposed to be provided with S.T.D. facility in Calicut Secondary Switching Area during 1991-92. Out of these Balussery has already been provided with S.T.D. facility. Vengara, Tirurandari & Edapal of Mallapuram district and Kadalund of Calicut district are planned to be provided with STD facility during 1991-92.

Fish Disease in Backwaters of Kerala

6963. PROF. K.V.THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantiry of fish in the backwaters of Kerala is perishing due to some disease;

(b) whether any study has been made to find out the cause of this disease;

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the assistance given by Union Government to Kerala to control this epidemic; and

(d) the compensation given to the fishermen who have suffered heavy loss due to this epidemic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Government of Kerala recently informed that fishes in the Vembanad lake have been affected with an unknown disease.

(b) and (c). Fish disease experts from the Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Instt. Barrackpore and Central Instt. of Brackish Water Agriculture, Madras have been deputed to Kerala to undertake detailed investigations and to suggest remedial measures. The investigations are in progress.

(d) There is no scheme for providing compensation.

Irrigation Bonds for Completion of Irrigation Projects in Karnataka

6964. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought the permission of the Union Government to float irrigation bonds in order to mobilise resources for the completion of ongoing irrigation projects in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, sir.